We Claim:

- An isolated antibody directed against a
 Neisseria meningitidis serogroup B capsular
 polysaccharide derivative, wherein said antibody is not autoreactive.
- 2. The antibody of claim 1 wherein said antibody does not cross-react with Neisseria meningitidis serogroup B capsular polysaccharide (MenB PS) in an ELISA.
- 3. The antibody of claim 1 wherein said antibody displays functional activity against a Neisseria meningitidis serogroup B organism.
 - 4. The antibody of claim 1 wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.
- 5. A unique Neisseria meningitidis serogroup
 B epitope capable of being bound by the antibody of claim
 1.
- 6. A unique Neisseria meningitidis serogroup

 B epitope capable of being bound by the antibody of claim

 2.
- 7. A unique Neisseria meningitidis serogroup
 B epitope capable of being bound by the antibody of claim
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 - 8. A unique Neisseria meningitidis serogroup
 B epitope capable of being bound by the antibody of claim
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- 9. A hybridoma that produces the monoclonal antibody of claim 4.
- 10. The hybridoma of claim 9 having the
 identifying characteristics of a hybridoma cell line
 selected from the group consisting of SEAM-2 (ATCC No.
 CRL-12380), SEAM-3 (ATCC No. HB-12170), SEAM-12 (ATCC No.
 HB-12169), and SEAM-18 (ATCC No. CRL-12381).
- 11. A method for isolating a molecular mimetic of a unique epitope of *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup B (MenB), said method comprising:
 - (a) providing a population of molecules comprising a putative molecular mimetic of a unique epitope of MenB;
 - (b) contacting said population of molecules with the antibody of claim 1 under conditions that allow immunological binding between said antibody and said molecular mimetic, if present, to provide a complex; and
 - (c) separating the complexes from non-bound molecules.
 - 12. The method of claim 11 wherein said population of molecules comprises a peptoid library.
 - 13. The method of claim 11 wherein said population of molecules comprises a peptide library.
- 14. The method of claim 11 wherein said 30 population of molecules comprises a phage-display library.
 - 15. A molecular mimetic of a unique epitope of Neisseria meningitidis serogroup B (MenB), wherein said mimetic is isolated using the method of claim 11.

16. A molecular mimetic of a unique epitope of Neisseria meningitidis serogroup B (MenB), wherein said mimetic is comprised of an anti-idiotypic antibody molecule produced using the antibody molecule of claim 1.

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- 17. A molecular mimetic of a unique epitope of Neisseria meningitidis serogroup B (MenB), wherein said mimetic is comprised of a peptide having an amino acid sequence that is substantially homologous to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs. 1-66, and SEQ ID NO. 67.
- 18. The mimetic of claim 17, wherein said mimetic is comprised of a peptide having an amino acid sequence that is substantially homologous to SEQ ID NO.
 - 19. A vaccine composition comprising a unique epitope of Neisseria meningitidis serogroup B (MenB) in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
 - 20. A vaccine composition comprising a molecular mimetic of a unique epitope of Neisseria meningitidis serogroup B (MenB) in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
 - 21. The vaccine composition of claim 20, wherein the molecular mimetic comprises an anti-idiotypic antibody molecule.

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22. The vaccine composition of claim 20, wherein the molecular mimetic comprises a nucleic acid molecule.

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- 23. The vaccine composition of claim 20, wherein the molecular mimetic comprises a peptide molecule.
- 5 24. The vaccine composition of claim 23, wherein the peptide molecule has an amino acid sequence that is substantially homologous to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs. 1-66, and SEQ ID NO. 67.

25. The vaccine composition of claim 19, wherein said epitope is covalently bound to a carrier molecule.

- 26. The vaccine composition of claim 20, wherein said molecular mimetic is covalently bound to a carrier molecule.
- 27. The vaccine composition of claim 23, wherein said peptide molecule is covalently bound to a carrier molecule.
 - 28. The vaccine composition of claim 19 further comprising an adjuvant.
 - 29. The vaccine composition of claim 20 further comprising an adjuvant.
- 30. A method for preventing Neisseria
 30 meningitidis serogroup B and/or E. coli K1 disease in a
 mammalian subject, said method comprising administering
 an effective amount of the vaccine of claim 19 to said
 subject.

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- meningitidis serogroup B and/or E. coli K1 disease in a mammalian subject, said method comprising administering an effective amount of the vaccine of claim 20 to said subject.
- 32. A method for preventing Neisseria meningitidis serogroup B and/or E. coli K1 disease in a mammalian subject, said method comprising administering an effective amount of the vaccine of claim 23 to said subject.
- 33. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody according to claim 1 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.
 - 34. A method for treating or preventing Neisseria meningitidis serogroup B and/or E. coli K1 disease in a mammalian subject, said method comprising administering an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 33 to said subject.

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